

What is claimed is:

1. An image inputting apparatus, comprising:

5 a photographic optical system for projecting an image of a subject;
an imaging device for converting the projected image into an image
signal and outputting it;

a focus driving device which changes a focusing condition of the
image projected to said imaging device by relatively moving at least one
10 of a part or an entire of said photographic optical system and said
imaging device to the other;

a first auto focusing device which sequentially evaluates said
image signal obtained in each focusing condition while subsequently
changes said focusing condition by controlling said focus driving device,
15 and which obtains a predetermined focusing condition based on the
evaluation;

a controlling device for controlling an operation of said first auto
focusing device, and

a ranging device for measuring a subject distance which is a
20 distance to said subject,

wherein said controlling device controls the operation of said first
auto focusing device according to the subject distance obtained by said
ranging device to prioritize either a focusing accuracy or a focusing
speed.

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2. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said

controlling device controls said first auto focusing device so as to carry out said evaluation in a peripheral focusing range of a focusing condition which corresponds to the subject distance obtained by said ranging device, and sets a wideness and a narrowness of said peripheral focusing range in accordance with said subject distance.

3. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said controlling device sets said peripheral focusing range wider when said subject distance is more than a predetermined distance which is set previously compared with a case that said subject distance is less than said predetermined distance.

4. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second auto focusing device which obtains a predetermined focusing condition by controlling said focus driving device based on the subject distance obtained by said ranging device,

wherein said controlling device switches over between the operation of said first auto focusing device and an operation of said second auto focusing device according to said subject distance.

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5. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said controlling device switches over between the operation of said first auto focusing device and the operation of said second auto focusing device to operate said first auto focusing device when said subject distance is more than a predetermined distance which is set previously and to operate said second auto focusing device when said subject distance is less than

said predetermined distance.

6. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ranging device measures a distance to each area of a plurality of
5 different areas of said subject, respectively, and

said controlling device controls the operation of said first auto focusing device based on a plurality of distances to the each area obtained by said ranging device.

10 7. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said controlling device controls said first auto focusing device so as to carry out said evaluation in a peripheral focusing range of a focusing condition which corresponds to the subject distance obtained by said ranging device, and sets a wideness and a narrowness of said peripheral focusing
15 range in pursuant to a presence or an absence of said subject which is mixed with a long distance and a short distance that is based on the distance to said each area.

8. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said
20 controlling device sets said peripheral focusing range wider when said subject is not in a condition mixed with the long distance and the short distance compared with a case that the subject is in the condition mixed with the long distance and the short distance.

25 9. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a second auto focusing device which obtains a predetermined

focusing condition by controlling said focus driving device based on the subject distance obtained by said ranging device,

wherein said controlling device switches over between the operation of said first auto focusing device and an operation of said second auto focusing device corresponding to a presence or an absence of said subject which is mixed with a long distance and a short distance that is based on the distance to said each area .

10. The image inputting apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said controlling device switches over between the operation of said first auto focusing device and the operation of said second auto focusing device to operate said first auto focusing device when said subject is not in a condition mixed with the long distance and the short distance and to operate said second auto focusing device when said subject is in the condition mixed with the long distance and the short distance.